

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

a first television display in a first home;

a first storage in the first home, the first storage for storing media, and having an associated first network protocol address;

a second storage in the second home, and having an associated second network protocol address;

at least one media peripheral, in the second home, communicatively coupled to the second storage; and

server software that receives via a communication network a request that identifies one of the associated first and second network protocol addresses, one of the at least one media peripheral, and at least one media peripheral command selected by a user at the first home, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network protocol addresses to support control from the first home, via the communication network, of the identified one of the at least one media peripheral, at the second home, according to the at least one media peripheral command.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile multi-media gateway device.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises real-time video.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral command comprises at least one of on, off, select, play, capture, download, erase, delete, zoom, focus, pan, tilt, set compression format, set resolution, set frame rate, set quality, rewind, fast forward, scan, list, skip, and check status.
7. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

9. The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a user interface, at the first home, for identifying at least one of the second home, the at least one media peripheral, and the at least one media peripheral command; and

the user interface supporting at least one media channel.

10. A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

a first storage in the first home that stores media, and having an associated first network address;

a second storage in the second home, and having an associated second network address;

set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled to the first storage and the second storage;

at least one media peripheral, in the second home, communicatively coupled to the second storage; and

server software that receives a request that identifies one of the associated first and second network addresses, one of the at least one media peripheral, and at least one media peripheral command, and responds by identifying the other of the associated first and second network addresses to

support control, via a communication network, of the identified one of the at least one media peripheral, according to the at least one media peripheral command.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile multi-media gateway device.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN).

14. The system of claim 10 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

15. The system of claim 10 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

16. The system of claim 10 wherein the server software forwards media from the at least one media peripheral to the set top box circuitry.

17. The system of claim 10 wherein the server software is at a location separate from the first home and the second home.

18. A system supporting the indirect control of at least one media peripheral, the system comprising:

a first storage, in a first home, that stores media;

at least one media peripheral, in a second home;

set top box circuitry, in the first home, communicatively coupled via a communication network, to exchange media between the first storage and the at least one media peripheral;

server software that supports the delivery of at least one media peripheral command to the at least one media peripheral, and the exchange of media between the at least one media peripheral and the set top box circuitry.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, real-time video, and data.

20. The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral command comprises at least one of on, off, select, play, capture, download, erase, delete, zoom, focus, pan, tilt, set compression format, set resolution,

set frame rate, set quality, rewind, fast forward, scan, list, skip, and check status.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein the communication network comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure.

22. The system of claim 18 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, an MP3 player, a home juke-box system, a multi-media personal digital assistant (PDA), a mobile multi-media gateway device.